

- You should also relocate woodpiles, vegetable gardens, trash cans and animal feed at least 100 feet from the house. Hay bales, woodpiles and trash cans should sit at least 12 inches off the ground.

Use Safety Precautions:

Safe disposal of rodents and proper cleaning and disinfection of rodent-inhabited areas are keys to minimizing exposure to the hantavirus.



The CDC specifically recommends following these steps for safe disposal and clean-up of dead rodents and/or rodent droppings:

- Wear rubber gloves.
- Thoroughly spray dead rodents, traps, droppings, and contaminated areas with a general household disinfectant. Also, if you find mouse droppings inside, DO NOT sweep or vacuum them until you have wet the affected areas with disinfectant, since these activities might put virus-laden dust into the air.
- Place disinfectant-soaked rodents into a plastic bag and seal it. Then place it into a second plastic bag and seal. If possible, burn or bury the bag or contact your local or state health department about other appropriate disposal methods.
- Disinfect floors, countertops and other surfaces with a general household disinfectant.
- Before removing the gloves, wash gloved hands in disinfectant, and then in soap and water. Thoroughly wash hands with soap and water after removing the gloves.
- Disinfect all used traps, and then set them again or replace them.
- Eliminate possible rodent nesting sites such as junk cars, old tires and trash piles. Do not leave animal food and water in feeding dishes overnight, and keep all food in rodent-proof containers. Cut grass, brush and dense shrubbery within 100 feet of the home.
- Remember to keep an eye out for signs of rodents and to use the precaution measures listed above even when away from home—such as when at work or when camping.

Treatment of hantavirus:

So far, there is no specific medicine or treatment available that will cure the hantavirus, but the best treatment has been early detection and hospital care. The CDC recommends specific rodent prevention precautions in order to minimize your chances of getting the disease.

Hantavirus in the future:

Since Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome was first diagnosed in 1993, a great deal has been learned about the disease and how to prevent it—but a great deal more is left to learn.

Currently, scientists are researching the virus. They are hard at work on new diagnostic tests to identify the disease more quickly and more accurately. They are determined to pinpoint which different rodents spread the hantavirus. Doctors are researching the best treatment for the disease and improving supportive care.

In the future, we can look forward to rapid diagnostic tests and better medical care. Until then, remember that preventive care, including rodent-proofing your home and proper clean-up and disposal, is still the best way to help reduce the risk of contracting the hantavirus.

To request additional free brochures,
call the d-CON hantavirus helpline
at 1-800-395-3266
or for more information,
contact your local county health department at:



This information is provided as a public service by Reckitt & Colman Inc., makers of d-CON® rodenticides and insecticides and LYSOL® Brand Disinfectant Spray.

© 1995 Reckitt & Colman Inc.

d-CON

LYSOL
DISINFECTANT SPRAY



INFORMATION
ABOUT THE
DISEASE
AND HOW TO
HELP
PREVENT IT

As part of its ongoing program of prevention partnerships, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reviewed the content of this brochure for technical accuracy.

HANTAVIRUS

Though still relatively rare, hantavirus infection is a serious and life-threatening illness that is currently being diagnosed in many parts of the country. By taking the right precautions, you can minimize your risk of becoming infected with this rodent-borne virus.

A brief history of the hantavirus disease:

The hantavirus in the U.S. leads to Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS), an often fatal infection of the lungs. The hantavirus is actually a member of a family of viruses long known in Asia and Europe. It first became a recognized health concern when one strain caused Hemorrhagic Fever in soldiers who served in the Hantaan area of Korea in the 1950's.

The disease was first diagnosed in the U.S. in May of 1993, when a number of deaths attributed to HPS occurred in the four-corners region in the Southwest. Since then, the virus has also been identified in other states across the country.

The disease—Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome:

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, the symptoms of the hantavirus are much like those of the flu—fever, headache, shortness of breath, severe muscle aches, coughing, vomiting, and abdominal pain. These symptoms may last a few hours to several days. Victims soon develop rapid respiratory failure and severe lung problems.

If you experience flu-like symptoms within one to six weeks of exposure to rodents or rodent secretions, see your doctor immediately, or call your local county health department.

How you get it:

It is believed that the disease is contracted mainly by breathing in tiny droplets from fresh or dried droppings, urine and saliva left by infected rodents or through direct contact with these rodent excretions, and possibly also through rodent bites. You may also get the hantavirus by touching anything (tools, furniture, clothing) where the virus has been deposited and then touching your nose, eyes or mouth.

Researchers believe that the deer mouse and the cotton rat are the most common carriers of the virus, although other rodents are also suspect. There is no

evidence that the virus is transmitted from person to person, or from insects, pets or livestock.

Who should be concerned?

The hantavirus does not appear to be limited to any age, race or ethnic group, nor does it appear to be limited to any geographic region. The illness has occurred in various ethnic groups, in young people as well as adults, and in both males and females.

Your highest risk of contracting the hantavirus comes from exposure to rodents or their droppings. Most cases have been acquired in rural settings, however everyone is at potential risk since many homes or garages harbor mice. Activities which pose a more significant risk include occupying or cleaning rodent-inhabited barns, sheds or abandoned dwellings; disturbing rodent-inhabited areas while hiking or camping; living in or visiting areas where there has been an increase in rodents; and working in enclosed spaces that have been infested with rodents.

Use precautions year-round. Experts urge extra precautions in the spring when cleaning out areas undisturbed during the colder months, and during the fall/winter months when more mice seek shelter indoors.

How can you prevent hantavirus disease?

You can't prevent hantavirus disease by taking medicine, but you can prevent it by avoiding contact with rodents and using prevention techniques. Rodent control in and around the home is currently the primary hantavirus prevention strategy. There are plenty of precautions you can take both inside and outside your home to avoid rodents—and thus avoid hantavirus infection.

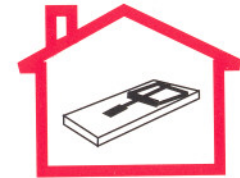
Follow these guidelines to keep your home safe from rodents:

Keep your home clean

- Keep all food, water and garbage in metal or thick plastic containers with tight-fitting lids.
- Never leave pet food and water out overnight.
- Wash dishes and cooking utensils, and clean spilled food from counters and floors immediately.
- Dispose of trash and clutter.



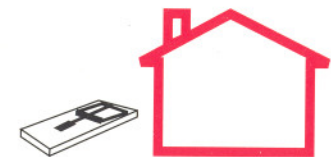
Control rodents inside your home



- You can prevent rodents from entering your home by stuffing steel wool or concrete in holes larger than one-quarter inch in diameter. Mice can fit through spaces the size of a dime! Placing three inches of gravel under the base of homes or under mobile homes also discourages rodent burrowing. And placing metal roof flashing around the base of wooden, earthen or adobe dwellings acts as a rodent barrier.
- Use spring-loaded (snap) rodent traps in the home continuously. Traps designed with a cover are particularly effective as they minimize contact with the dead rodent.
- As a supplement to traps, use EPA-registered rodenticides, such as bait pellets, on an ongoing basis inside the house. Ideal places for baits and traps are dark corners such as behind the stove, washer and dryer, and refrigerator and close to walls. Check baits every few days to see if they need replacing. Remember that in some parts of the country, rodent fleas may carry plague. In these areas, use insecticides prior to trapping or baiting to control fleas that may transmit disease when they leave the dead rodent.

Remember to keep baits and traps out of the reach of children and pets.

Control rodents outside your home



- Natural predators such as hawks, snakes and coyotes help control the rodent population naturally. But snap traps and baits should be used inside barns and sheds, remembering to keep all rodenticides safely out of the reach of animals and children.